

DRAFT DOCUMENT

Village of Ardentown
Ardentown, Del. 19810

Established 1922
Incorporated 1975

The regular meeting of the Village of Ardentown was convened at 7:35 pm on Monday, February 12, 2017. Annie Gutsche, Chair, presiding. A quorum was present.

In Attendance

- | | | |
|-------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Cheryl Regan | 13. Beverly Bizup Hawkins | 25. Oliver Gutsche |
| 2. Hardy Hoegger | 14. Pat Lane | 26. Steve Cohen |
| 3. Hans Francke | 15. Terry Harvey | 27. Barbara Mondzelewski |
| 4. Anne P. Lutz | 16. Barbara Conway | 28. Joan Fitzgerald |
| 5. Sandra McCormick | 17. Chris Monson | 29. Elaine Schmerling |
| 6. John McCormick | 18. Betty Ann Themal | 30. Sue Cherrin |
| 7. Dotty Verne | 19. Harry Themal | 31. Melissa Parsonson |
| 8. Jeana Carey | 20. Steven Curley | 32. Maureen Gordon |
| 9. Rusty Hoegger | 21. Janet Cosgrove | 33. Cindy Cohen |
| 10. Lisa Wilson Riblett | 22. Mhairi Craig | 34. Alison Wakelin |
| 11. Joe Grippe | 23. Stuart Craig | 35. Shari Phalan |
| 12. Lindsay Sherwood | 24. Katrina Nelson | 36. Terri Hansen |

MEETING: Regular meeting called to order at 7:35 pm by Annie Gutsche, Town Chair

SPECIAL GUEST: Paul Beane from Waste Management - Our contract is up for bid (current contract ends August 31, 2018). Mr Beane fielded questions from meeting attendees

Q. How do residents dispose of Hazardous Materials?

A. Contact Delaware Solid Waste Authority (DSWA) for information on how to properly dispose of hazardous materials.

Q. Yard Waste- We should have yard waste removal but folks have reported that it is being placed into the garbage.

A. Mr. Beane will look into this issue.

Composting

Q. Is Waste Management composting hot enough to kill invasives if roots, seeds, etc. are disposed of in the Yard Waste bin?

A. Mr. Beane will look into this issue.

Q. Lumber- Should it go in to Yard Waste, trash or recycle?

A. You can throw it in the trash, but not ideal. For larger amounts, call for special pick up.

Q. What is done with our trash?

A. Audits are done on the trash periodically to see how much recycling materials are mixed in, audits also done on the recycling. Trash is sent to landfill, recycling is sorted and sold in the commodities market, which is depressed right now.

Q. Trying to contact Waste Management is hard- You call for an individual address, you get sent to commercial accounts.

A. There is a new process that should address this problem when people call in. Mr Beane is working with customer service to improve the user experience.

Items brought up at this meeting will be captured in an email by the town secretary and will be sent to Mr. Beane for full details. Items of interest, including contact information for Waste Management will be posted on the Ardentown Website.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The minutes of the November 2017 meeting were approved with two amendments- 1. Sewer repair in the woodlands behind the Slattery Leasehold- Trustees paid Rich Cropper to do that repair. 2. Bev Bizup Hawkins and Lindsay Sherwood were in attendance. Accepted unanimously as amended.

REGISTRATION COMMITTEE: Alison Wakelin reporting:

Chelsey M. and Michael A. Buscaglia moved into 1501 Valley Road on January 17, 2018

Julia Epps and Charlie Henry moved into 1512 The Mall on 15 December, 2017

Jeana Carey moved into 2303 Loreley Lane on February 1, 2018

Michelle Lauer moved out of 2311 Hilltop on December 30, 2017

Carly Hampton moved out of 2301 Sconset Road December 18, 2017

Related- ACRA Directory 2018 is in the works. If you have extra information, corrections, please look for information in the Arden Page for how to get that included.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Holly Custer reporting:

Operating Accounts: \$ 42,039.54

Municipal Street Aid: \$ 10,067.56

Arden Building and Loan: \$ 23,488.45

Total Funds Available: \$ 75,595.55

PLANNING COMMITTEE: nothing to report

BUDGET: Steven Curley reporting: Budget was sent in the Town Meeting Mailer, there is an increase to the roads budget but everything else remains largely the same. Budget passed unanimously with no questions.

MEMORIAL GARDEN: Betty Ann Themal reporting: Suzanna MacGuire moved away in December; thanks to Suzanna for her service. Shelley Robyn has agreed to complete Suzanne's term, which ends in February 2019. The Committee will be meeting to discuss plantings around the lot and to review and revise the list of regulations.

PUBLIC WORKS: Cheryl Regan reporting:

Roads: There are a few small potholes that will be filled soon. We are not sure if we will be getting any municipal street aid this year.

Signs: The remaining 42 wooden road signs from DCI were picked up. They also sent two replacements for Apple Tree Lane – being two words not one. Chris will look into the status of the wooden posts to see what we may need replaced. Weather permitting, he will cut and stain them prior to installing the new signs.

Snow/sand: We did not receive any sand barrels this year as DelDOT has informed us that we are not eligible for them as they do not maintain our roads. Jim Burslem will continue to salt/sand the hills as needed.

Misc: The bench on the Pettit Green is damaged and should be replaced. It would be nice to get a recycled bench like the one on the Henry George Green.

Natural Lands: Elaine Schmerling reporting:

The goals have been: 1) to keep invasives out between the main path and Naaman's creek, and work to pull it back from the path; and 2) to save trees especially from ivy, and stop the seeding of various invasives. This year there was one volunteer group re-clear Euonymus Americana closer to Arden woods, but the terrain is hard. Elaine Schmerling worked with a helper pulling/cutting out LOTS privet between path & creek, cutting seed sources and re-clearing the path below Phibbs' on left. She would love to get residents bordering the woods involved.

Sunnyside paths are in great shape, thanks to Chris Monson! His new loop is totally walkable! Working with Hal & Co. we have saved at least 100 trees in 2017 (photos available) in the middle and higher areas. Redtail Restoration worked to keep invasives out from main path to creek, and they are working up into the area from the main path (where we cross in over the RR tracks by Croppers).

The former Bickhart property is FULL of invasives. We tried to save the trees bordering Marsh (ivy should be dying soon), eliminated several multiflora patches along the stream (more in the middle of the stream), and cut oriental bittersweet off a lovely magnolia tree remaining from the house garden, and off all the

side shrubs. The whole area would have been all bittersweet and other invasives in a few years. A meadow is taking hold, as are several oaks and sweetgums. This is worth working on a few times a year. Will allow meadow in middle, and trees to reforest it (neighbor has been throwing acorn seeds in "to feed the deer").

Could use work for the rest of the lands up the stream. Would be good to meet w/neighbors bordering it as there is dumping into the woods and grass fertilizer hurting trees.

Marsh/Chestnut land– Elaine S. walked through and pulled invasives once this year. There is concern about the bamboo from the nearby house, but owner, CJ Lucas (wife is Melora, Julia McNeil's sister) and he says he keeps it under control and will walk with Elaine S. to assess when weather is better.

The weed seed pressure in all these areas is very high, and would certainly destroy our lovely woods without management. Most of last years' budget trying to keep invasives at bay and save trees from ivy. In addition to the hired help mentioned, Nick Liberman volunteered several times w/his chain saw and together we had many volunteer hours!

FOREST EDUCATION: There are more official forest walks w/folks in the Ardens. These are scheduled, look for info in the Page, FaceBook and Nextdoor:

Saturday, March 3 – Geology walk w/Jeff Martin (look for details in the Page).

Saturday, April 14 – Community Earthday Cleanup (w/NCWA, same day as Christiana R. Basin cleanup)

Friday, April 27, 3 pm Indian Circle – Dedication Ceremony for the Ardens' designation as an "Old Growth Community Forest". State officials (including governor) and press will participate as part of the state's Arbor Day celebration. Walk in forest afterwards, and I will help identify spring wildflowers and trees.

Saturday, May 5 or 6 – Bird Walk with Barbara Conway!

BLUEBIRD BOX: Barbara Conway has generously offered to put up one bluebird box and monitor weekly.

Location to be on the Ardentown greens between her house on Sconset Road and The Scanlon's.

PLAYGROUND COMMITTEE: Courtney Hayflinger has been appointed by Annie Gutsche to the playground committee. We are planning a Playground spruce up day on March 23rd. Details will be posted on the Community Board, in the Page and on the website.

TRUSTEES REPORT: Harry Themal, Joan Fitzgerald and Pat Lane reporting

The Trustee's Budget for 2018 was distributed at the meeting.

A question was raised about the expenses for the Candlelight. The trustees explained that the building needs a new roof to be installed this year, which will cost \$39,000. The building has required extensive, and expensive, renovation over the last two years.

Parking for Candlelight- A resident pointed out that Candlelight Theatre patrons are parking up into the road. Once the weather improves, Public Works will paint a wide yellow line to delineate parking boundaries.

Trustees are trying to get something done about the light at Grubb/Harvey/Marsh and will send a letter to DelDOT. We are requesting phased lights to address the increased traffic once the Marsh Road I-95 interchange closes in the summer.

Unexplained booms- There is dredging going on in the Delaware River and they are blasting periodically through the day and night

BUZZ COMMITTEE: Terri Hansen - A new Building Manager has not been hired yet; currently Walt Borders and Denis O'Regan are sharing that job. NORML's long term repeat rental agreement was not renewed, NORML is now renting meeting space at another location. AB&L plans to sign a lease with the Village of Arden to rent the former maintenance closet (formerly one of the student bathrooms). This lease will last for two years and then be renegotiated. Yoga and Strength and Mobility continue to be offered as community programming. These programs serve between 25-30 unique individuals weekly. Costs for these programs exceed donations received from attendees, the BWVC Committee estimates that these programs are subsidized in the amount of \$1900 yearly. Since Ardentown designates our \$1400 contribution to the Buzz to be used for community event costs, our contribution largely subsidizes these two programs.

ARCHIVES COMMITTEE: Hans Francke reporting: Exhibition for Homes in the Ardens, please come out and add your home to the map. There is a good search engine on the Archives website where you can go through many scanned photographs, please check it out and help identify people!

TOWN CHAIR REPORT: Annie Gutsche reporting: Time to sign up for the State's mosquito program. This is only to keep options open. If we sign up and the mosquito problem is extreme, we can opt to have DNREC come in to survey the population and possibly spray.

A new Town Chair will be elected in November. Any interested parties should approach Annie Gutsche for information.

ELECTIONS:

Archives- Melissa Parsonson was reelected unanimously

Memorial Garden- Betty Ann Themal and Rusty Hoegger reelected unanimously

Meeting Adjourned at 8:45 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Terri Hansen